

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning on House Bill 4592.

My name is Cynthia Maher, and I am representing the Michigan Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association.

On behalf of our members, we appear today to express our concern for House Bill 4592, which would change current law to not require a license in order to install, maintain, replace, or service a thermostat for a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system or hydronic heating and cooling systems.

A concern MPMCA has is with the technology involved in the new systems. There are many variables that can cause mechanical failure which can arise out of the installation of the thermostat, i.e. wiring shorts, mechanical faults, heating systems overheating and causing circuit board failure, which can in turn cause gas valve failures.

Another question is with manufacturers and whether work done by unlicensed individuals would void the manufacturers warranties.

Without a licensed individual performing the work, whom does the homeowner turn to in the case of a problem with the thermostat, or any equipment leading to or from the thermostat which may have caused damage to the system? A licensed individual performing the work would be answerable to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the Mechanical Law of Michigan.

These are some of the concerns MPMCA Contractors have with House Bill 4592. We would be happy to meet with the sponsor of the bill to discuss these concerns and work together to address them.

Again, thank you for your time to allow me to address these issues.